



THE VOTER

League Of Women Voters
Of Sonoma County

Volume 24, Issue 7

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

***LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of SONOMA COUNTY
FALL KICK OFF MEETING***

LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE

***September 13, 2018
4:30 – 6:30 pm***

***LOCATION: Community Room, Roseland Accelerated Middle School
1777 West Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (Roseland Area)***

Plenty of parking

***4:30 pm Social time- greet old friends and meet new members
Food catered by Ulia's Delicatessen***

***SPEAKER: OSCAR CHAVEZ
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SONOMA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES***

Mr. Chavez will begin speaking around 5 p.m.

His topic is: Engaging the Latino Voter

We will also share the League's GOTV plan for this fall.

***Let's demonstrate how much we care about this issue
Please Plan to Attend.***

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Tabling Orientation: Saturday, September 8, 10:00-11:15 am.

Santa Rosa, CA

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-voter>

Fall Kickoff: Thursday, September 13, 5-6:30 pm.

Roseland Accelerated Middle School, 1777 West Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Come at 4:30 for refreshments and socializing. (See Page 5)

Rohnert Park City Council Candidate Forum: Friday, September 14, 6-8 pm.

Rohnert Park City Council Chamber, 130 Avram Ave. Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

SLV Forum on Transportation: Monday, September 17, 2:30-4:00 pm.

Spring Lake Village, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409

League members and guest welcome. Please car pool as parking is limited See Page 6)

National Voter Registration Day: Tuesday, September 25

Volunteers will be needed.

How to Help at Forums-an Orientation: Thursday, September 27, 9:00 - 10:00 am.

Conference Room, LWVSC Office, 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Cloverdale City Council Forum. Tuesday, October 2, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Veterans Memorial Building,(205 W 1st Street, Cloverdale, CA 95425

Petaluma School Board Forum ,Tuesday, October 2, 6:00-7:00 pm.

Petaluma City Council Forum, Tuesday, October 2, 7:30-9:00 pm.

Petaluma City Council Chambers, 11 English St reet, Petaluma, CA 94952

In collaboration with the Petaluma AAUW

Election Day: Tuesday , November 6

See our [website](#) for other important election dates and information and links to videos of forums, or go to [Voters Edge](#) .

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 10-noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon

Outreach Committee Meeting: 2nd Thursday, 10:00-noon.

Book Club: 3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

Voter Service Committee Meeting: 4th Thursday, 10-noon.

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office
555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon request.
All other meetings are open to all.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

Have You Renewed Your Annual Membership?

We are saving money with our online renewal process and we thank the many members who have sent in your renewal checks. But we are still looking for some of you.....

Click the link below for the renewal form, but if you can't print the form just send a check!

http://lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/sonco-members/files/2018_membership_renewal_letter.pdf

Remember your membership dues makes it possible for us to:

- ◆ Hold Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons presentations
- ◆ Fund and promote get out the vote efforts through tabling and community engagement
- ◆ Register voters throughout the county
- ◆ Continue our advocacy support for affordable housing, immigration reform, health and climate change and transportation
- ◆ Present at citizenship classes and local schools



At the Aug 22nd Wed. Night Market where we distributed over 120 Government Guide s and over 100 Voter's Edge Bookmarks to the public.



Your Vote is Your Voice – Be Heard!

Have you ever thought you knew in advance how an election would turn out? If we learned anything from the 2016 election, it is we can't always predict the outcome. Elections can be amazingly close, and sometimes one vote determines the results.

Below are several examples of where ONE vote made a big difference in State elections:

- 1968 1 Vote decided the state House election in Wisconsin
- 1970 1 Vote decided the state House election in Rhode Island
- 1970 1 Vote decided the state House election in Missouri
- 1978 1 Vote decided the state Senate election in North Dakota
- 1978 1 Vote decided the state Senate election in Rhode Island
- 1980 1 Vote decided the state House election in New Mexico
- 1980 1 Vote decided the state House election in Utah
- 1982 1 Vote decided the state House election in Maine
- 1982 1 Vote decided the state Senate election in Massachusetts

Here are a couple of examples of where one vote impacted a Local Election:

- 1992: 1 vote selected a member of the Town Council of Trinity, Alabama
- 1992: 1 vote decided the final member of the Selma, Alabama city council

Our Democracy depends on us voting in every election. Use your voice – VOTE!

The League's Fall Kickoff Event GET OUT THE VOTE IN NOVEMBER!



Mark your calendar for September 13th, and invite friends to the Sonoma League's fall Kickoff Event, which will be held at Roseland Accelerated Middle School's Community Room, 1777 West Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401. This is an opportunity to connect with Roseland, the newest Santa Rosa Community. Good parking is available and carpooling is encouraged.

Arrive early at 4:30 pm to greet old friends and meet new members and guests. Some of the guests we have invited include members of the Roseland district school board and staff, Los Cien Board members, and members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Please help them feel welcome. Snacks from Ulia's Delicatessen will be provided.

At 5:00 pm our speaker will be Oscar Chavez, the Assistant Director of Sonoma County Human Services. His subject is "**Engaging the Latino Voter.**" So why this topic? The lowest turnout of eligible voters in Sonoma County is Latino citizens, followed by young people. We want to change those statistics.

This year our Outreach Committee set goals of increasing voter registration and turnout among Latino citizens and the youth in our community. Our League is currently working with Los Cien to improve our outreach to Latino and young voters. But we have much to learn, including how to be more effective at reaching and registering those residents, sharing ballot measure information, as well as encouraging them to vote in November. Our speaker has both experience and ideas from which we can learn. Oscar believes mobilizing voters is a year round job. It requires offering interested members of the community a satisfying and relevant civic life. For many these possibilities need to begin early in school clubs as well as the classroom.

Oscar also believes civic and community involvement is not just voting and needs to be a part of our daily lives. Oscar is a part of Los Cien, a growing and vibrant organization in Sonoma County, which offers a place where Latinos and others can meet, discuss ideas, and stay connected to each other as well as their community. Through its activities, well-attended gatherings and programs, Los Cien provides an opportunity for Latino residents to meet Sonoma County leaders and learn about important public issues that affect them and their families. That involvement often encourages people to vote. This past year the League has partnered with Los Cien on several voter registration opportunities in our community.

Registration is only the first step. Equally important is getting people to vote. At our Kickoff you will also hear about our **Fall 2018 Get Out The Vote Campaign** as well as the many opportunities our members will have to participate. Through our campaign, we will remind Sonoma County residents that **VOTING DOES MATTER!** Each League member can spread this important message. **Come find out more on September 13th. See you there!**

Local Transportation Expert to Explain Prop.6



Proposition 6 on the November ballot promises to be one of the most competitive and complex measures facing California Voters. Suzanne Smith, the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, will be the Local Issues Forum speaker at Spring Lake Village on September 17th at 2:30. The Sonoma League cooperates with SLV in planning and presenting these forums, and our members are invited to attend.

The speaker has been invited to explain the potential fiscal, transportation, and environmental impact of this gas tax and road usage fee measure on Sonoma County residents, if it passes and if it fails. What specific road maintenance projects

and public transit projects would be affected? How will the outcome affect Sonoma County drivers?

If the measure passes (a YES vote) this major transportation infrastructure bill passed by the state legislature last year will be repealed. Called the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program (SB1), the law, which passed narrowly, was designed to address deferred maintenance on the state highway, local street and road systems. It is not directed to new highway and road construction.

Statewide, the program would receive approximately \$4 billion annually, primarily from a 12 cent gasoline excise tax and a new vehicle registration surcharge fee. Part of that fee is set aside for public transit and bicycle safety projects. There are other sources of revenue as well. **If this measure fails, (a majority NO vote) SB 1 remains law and the revenue would be available for road maintenance and rehabilitation. A Majority Yes vote means the 2017 road maintenance and rehabilitation program (SB1) will be repealed.**

Plan to attend and bring questions to ask, but **car pool because of limited parking.**

The forum will be held in the Montgomery Center at Spring Lake Village, 5555 Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa. The Montgomery Center faces Montgomery Drive.

Member Profile

Rick Luttmann



Rick Luttmann, active member of the Sonoma League, may be our most unusual and interesting member, ever! His extraordinary background and active involvement in the community provide both talent and experience from which others can draw new insights and understanding.

Professionally, Rick is a mathematician. He has degrees from Amherst, Stanford and the University of Arizona. He also spent an academic year in Germany on a fellowship.

Rick became a professor of mathematics at Sonoma State University in 1970, after a few years at a small private school in Anchorage, and retired in 2014. At SSU, Rick developed several new math-related General Education courses. Including one called Math and Politics.. He was active in faculty governance and the faculty union at SSU, and Chair of the Faculty from 2000 to 2003.

Although busy teaching and writing, Rick served in various volunteer positions, as he continues to do. He was a volunteer mathematics instructor for 10 years at San Quentin State Prison and a volunteer election official from 2000 to the present. He was also the founder and 25-year host of SSU's War and Peace Public Lecture Series.

Continuing his interest in volunteering, Rick serves on the Executive Boards and as Treasurer of North Bay Jobs with Justice as well as the Sonoma Chapter of the United Nations Association. The list of additional commissions and boards on which he has served is a long one.

Rick's personal background, including travel and culture, may be even more interesting than his academic one. He is married to a Yup'ik Eskimo artist, dancer, storyteller, cultural ambassador and museum curator. Among the exotic musical forms Rick plays are Navajo flute, Indonesian gamelan, and Taiko drumming. He also shares his husband's love of Yup'ik dancing. His travels to Greenland, Point Hope, Alaska, as well as the Kilbuck Mountains in Alaska are stories in themselves.

Rick's interest in the Sonoma LWV connects to his long-time interest in social justice. The way to achieve and maintain justice, he reminded his students, is through voting. "That is our power in a democracy." He shares the League's interest in democratic reforms – reforms that make our democracy stronger.

Among the reforms which combine Rick's interest in mathematics and democracy is alternative voting systems. He prefers a type of ranked-choice voting system to the traditional plurality system or our current top-two system. Rick has offered to share his interest in alternative voting systems with League members and others. Given his background and wide range of interests, Rick surely has a great deal to share.

Welcome New Members!

Karen Wilhelmson
Julia Pollock
Iris Levitis
Marilyn Nelson
Jamison Bunn
Vicki Groninga

We're so glad you're here!**Book Club Reads****September 20: Moderated by Lynda Hungerford**

The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives, by Jesse Eisinger, 330 pages, 2017.

From Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jesse Eisinger, “a fast moving, fly-on-the-wall, disheartening look at the deterioration of the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Why were no bankers put in prison after the financial crisis of 2008? Why do CEOs seem to commit wrongdoing with impunity? The Chickenshit Club—an inside reference to prosecutors too scared of failure and too daunted by legal impediments to do their jobs—explains why in “an absorbing financial history, a monumental work of journalism...a first-rate study of the federal bureaucracy.”

October 18: Moderated by Linda Allen

Beyond the Messy Truth, by Van Jones, 256 pages, 2017.

A passionate manifesto that exposes hypocrisy on both sides of the political divide and points a way out of the tribalism that is tearing America apart—by the CNN political contributor and host hailed as “a star of the 2016 campaign.” Tough on Donald Trump but showing respect and empathy for his supporters, Jones takes aim at the failures of both parties before and after Trump’s victory. He urges both sides to abandon the politics of accusation and focus on real solutions. Calling us to a deeper patriotism, he shows us how to get down to the vital business of solving, together, some of our toughest problems

November 15: Choose books for 2019

The 2018 Reading list is online at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2018.pdf>

Please join us.

LWVSC

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LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

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<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

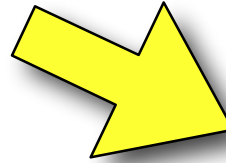
Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.

Tell us what you think!
Send in your comments,
questions, and
suggestions.
Email, snail-mail, or call!
We want to hear from you!

Become a Member of the LWV of Sonoma County



Make a DONATION

or

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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City Zip
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Memberships Levels

Table with 2 columns: Membership Level and Price. Includes Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership (\$65), Student/ Limited Income Individual Membership (\$40), Amelia Bloomer Household Membership (\$100), Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$100), and Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$200 or more).

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- Voter Registration, Candidate Forums, Transportation, Housing/Homelessness, Climate Change, Immigration, Newsletter, Website Management, Local Governance

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 546-5943

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